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# Sandhills Community College

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March 14, 1997

Mr. William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222  
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

RE: Comments on Emergency Motion for Stay and Petition  
for Expedited Reconsideration in GN Docket No. 96-228  
Written Ex Parte Communication

Dear Mr. Caton:

Sandhills Community College is writing in support of the Emergency Motion for Stay ("Motion") and Petition for Expedited Reconsideration ("Petition") filed with the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") by The Wireless Cable Association International, Inc. ("WCA") on March 10, 1997. Commenter supports WCA's request for reconsideration of the Commission's Report and Order, GN Docket No. 96-228 (rel. February 19, 1997) and its motion to stay the proceeding. Specifically, Commenter urges the Commission to adopt a 20 watt EIRP power limitation on Wireless Communications Service ("WCS") operations in order to prevent the blanketing interference to MDS and ITFS facilities which will occur without such a limitation.

Commenter has a pending application for ITFS channels in North Carolina. In conjunction with Wireless One of North Carolina, L.L.C., Commenter's channels will be part of an integrated wireless cable system serving schools and individual subscribers throughout North Carolina. The successful development of this statewide system is now threatened by the proposed licensing of WCS facilities without power limitations.

As demonstrated in WCA's Petition and the exhibits thereto, there will be significant interference from WCS facilities to MDS and ITFS systems, such as those being developed in North Carolina, unless the Commission imposes a power limitation on WCS facilities. WCA requests, and Commenter supports, Commission limitation of the power for WCS facilities to 20 watts EIRP, which will allow the continued operation of licensed MDS and ITFS systems, as well as the continued expansion and development of new systems without the blanketing interference that would be caused by WCS operations under the current rules.

Office of the President.

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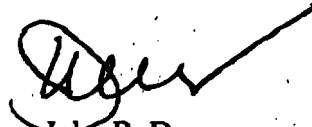
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Mr. Caton  
Page 2

The proposed power limitation will not substantially hinder development of the WCS. Because the WCS has yet to be launched, adoption of the power limitation will not adversely impact any existing facilities. Furthermore, adoption of the power limitation at the inauguration of this new service will prevent the problem of a patchwork quilt of technical regulations being overlayed on the WCS at some future date.

Commenter believes it is crucial for the Commission to address the potential interference to MDS and ITFS systems now, before it begins the WCS auction. In this regard, Commenter supports WCA's Emergency Motion for Stay and Petition for Expedited Reconsideration and asks that the Commission impose a power limitation of 20 watts EIRP on future WCS facilities.

Sincerely,



John R. Dempsey  
President

cc: The Wireless Cable Association  
International, Inc.